

# IN DAYS OF OLD

(The following account is taken from a scrapbook owned by the late Dr. Reuben Peterson. It is a newspaper account of Long Bridge, dated December, 1889. -- Ed.)

For some years past there has been talk of putting a pile bridge across the bay from Salter's beach to give the people of Duxbury a chance to get to the long, hard sandy beach on the outside, known as Powder Point, and to encourage the building of summer cottages along the beach. The point can be approached now only by driving around the bay, which is a long, hard road, or crossing by boat. In the past, W. J. Wright has generously helped our town, improving its looks in many ways and at the same time giving better inducements for outsiders to come and settle. He is always on the alert for anything that will raise the valuation and increase population here, and saw what grand benefit the bridge would be, bringing in direct communication with the town the entire stretch of beach on the outside of the bay, shortening the road several miles and making it practicable to build a handsome line of cottages, thus raising the town valuation thousands of dollars.

Mr. Wright from his own pocket paid different men, both in town and out, to survey, sound and figure on the cost of this bridge, so that our voters might know exactly what they were doing at the special town meeting called at town hall Nov. 20. This shows the generous heart of Mr. Wright, and in itself should be enough to convince every man here that he carries the interests of our town foremost in his mind and will always help along public enterprises in every way possible.

At the special meeting, Nov. 20, the following report was made and placed on record:

At a town meeting in Duxbury, Nov. 20, 1889, under the second article in the warrant, "To see what action the town will take in regard to the construction of a pile bridge from Powder Point to Duxbury 'Salter's beach, after hearing such discussion as may be had on the subject."

Voted 65 for the 45 against, on the question, "Does the town want a bridge from Powder Point to Duxbury beach," in connection with a petition to the legislature for leave to borrow sufficient money to pay said assessment in such manner and on such terms as the treasurer of said town may hereafter determine, in sums not to exceed \$25,000. Authorized by vote of the town. Also voted yea on the form of the article. Also voted yea on the form of the petition to the county commissioners for them to order or build said bridge.

Josiah Peterson, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS., 1889. TO THE HONORABLE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

GENTLEMEN: Your petitioners ask your favorable action on the following subject -

That the town of Duxbury by its treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$25,000 for the purpose of paying any assessments by the county commissioners of Plymouth County, which may be laid by virtue of Chapter 301 of the Acts of 1887 and acts amendatory thereof.

(Authorized by vote of the town.)

Josiah Peterson, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS., NOV. 20, 1889

Voted, That the inhabitants of the town of Duxbury, through their selectmen, respectfully petition the county commissioners of Plymouth county to order or to build a bridge, by virtue of chapter 301 of Acts of 1887, and acts amendatory thereof.

Josiah Peterson, Town Clerk.

DUXBURY, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS., '89

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

GENTLEMEN: Your petitioners, agreeable to the above vote, respectfully request that you will take action on the same at your earliest convenience.

At this meeting Mr. Wright, J. B. Hollis, Jr., D.D. Devereaux, George Bradford, Samuel Soule, W.B. Campbell and others were strongly in favor of the bridge; while F.B. Knapp, Lawrence Bradford, Hambleton Smith and others were opposed. After strong speeches from both sides, the vote was called, with result as above indicated.

The next day a notice was placed at the post office, reading as follows:

The taxpayers of Duxbury, who are opposed to increasing their taxes \$25,000 are requested to meet at town hall at 2 o'clock Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1889. This notice called out a small company of voters. Samuel Soule presided.

The misstatements made by the papers had misled several voters is to the cost of the bridge. A party of four called on the county commissioners and received from them an offer in aid of the bridge, which was put on record. The county would pay one-third of the cost of construction if the town would pay the remaining two-thirds. Printed statements were circulated among the voters present, giving clearly the statement of cost of construction as follows:

**ESTIMATE FOR BUILDING A BRIDGE AT POWDER POINT.**

County  $\frac{1}{3}$  \$6,666. A contributor \$2,000. Town \$11,334, say: \$20,000.

For example: Our present valuation is, say \$1,220,000. We want to raise by bond, say 10 years at 4 percent interest: \$11,334. Interest on \$11,334 at 4 percent: \$453.36

Retire yearly 10 percent for 10 years: \$1133.40

Repairs yearly estimate, \$750. (Total of last 3 items: \$2,336.76

To be raised by taxation, \$2,336.76 yearly, or \$1.92 on \$1,000.

\$20,000 is the highest estimate given by any engineer. \$24,000 was estimated by the county commissioner. This was for full cost of the bridge.

As several of our voters had not previously looked at it in this light, it is not strange that they were opposed to the bridge on the ground that it would plunge the town deeper into debt and they all thought that railroad debt was enough for the town to carry each year. By retiring 10 percent each year, in 10 years the bridge becomes the property of the town, with no further expense than the repairs which are allowed for the \$750 yearly which goes as a sinking fund. It will be perfectly safe to say that a new bridge of this kind will not want any repairs for 3 years, possible not for 5.

The bridge will be a continuation of the county road, keeping about straight with it across the bay, a distance of 2,407 feet, the driveway to be 24 feet wide, with foot path outside overhanging the main bridge. the draw will clear 28 feet, allowing ample room for boats as large as can possible sail up as far as the bridge.

It is hoped to be able to start work on the bridge early in the spring, and to finish in about 3 months.

With the new bridge across the bay, a large hotel on Salter's Beach, which Duxbury must have, and these house lots brought within building distance, our town can look for quite an increase in valuation and summer population within the next 5 years.